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not exceed 1½ lakhs of rupees and a fair return might be expected within a short time. By the opening of the kal, about 1,000 kottas of existing lands could be irrigated and many acres of dry land could also be converted into wet.

Dewan's reply.—Government consider that the proposal of the Member is impracticable and it cannot be acted upon.

TRIVANDRUM DIVISION.

TRIVANDRUM TALUK.

15. *Drainage and water supply for the Trivandrum Town.*

Mr. H. Mahadeva Iyer (Member, Town Improvement Committee, Trivandrum) said that good water for drinking and washing purposes was admittedly one of the essential conditions of sound public health, that the Government had from the earliest times constructed tanks, wells and channels in different parts of the country and that a good deal more yet remained to be done in that direction. He observed that the drains of Trivandrum required a perennial supply of water to keep them from horrid stench. The masonry drains recently built at considerable expense were so many centres of filth, for want of thorough flushing. It was not possible to flush the drains as long as the funds at the disposal of the Committee for such purposes were limited. The major portion of the funds was expended on the costly establishment. The permanent grant for the Trivandrum town was Rs. 32,000, but the cost of the establishment alone came to Rs. 33,000. Recently, the permanent grant was reduced to Rs. 25,000. If the reduction was made on the ground that the interests of the general tax-payer ought not to be sacrificed for the sake of the urban population, he would urge that the so-called general tax-payer was not a distinct entity made up exclusively of people living beyond urban limits, as those living within the town mostly owned extensive properties and were paying heavy taxes. He pointed out further that, as the seat of Government, as the constant resort of illustrious visitors and as the centre towards which people from all parts of Travancore as well as from distant provinces were attracted either by business or by pleasure, Trivandrum was entitled to exceptional treatment in regard to the spending of more money on it than other towns. He regretted that the funds at the disposal of the Com-

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mittee were so limited that even very important measures had to be put off. In these circumstances, the Town Improvement Committee could not be expected to provide the requisite water-supply for purposes of drainage. He prayed that Government might be pleased to take early steps for the supply of water to the town and that no more masonry drains be constructed without first having the means for flushing them.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

NEYYATTINKARA TALUK.

116. *Improvement of the Kannipurathu kadavu.*

Mr. P. Kesava Pillai (Member, Neyyattinkara Taluk) requested that the Kannipurathu kadavu near the Neyyattinkara satrom might be improved. In its present state, the kadavu was dangerous and caused inconvenience to the people of Perunkadavila, Kunnathukal and other pakuthies as well as to those resorting to the satrom.

Dewan's reply.—An estimate is being prepared by the Public Works department.

NEDUMANGAD TALUK.

117. *Improvement of irrigation tanks.*

Mr. Mathevan Pillai (Member, Nedumangad Taluk) said that, owing to the neglected condition of the irrigation tanks, there was frequent failure of crops in the taluk. Both the ryots and the Government suffered in consequence. He requested that, till the existing irrigation tanks were restored, Government might be pleased to sanction annual allotments for the taluk and added that, after repair, the ryots would themselves see to their proper maintenance.

Mr. K. Appathura Iyer (Member, Nedumangad Taluk) supported the previous speaker.

Dewan's reply.—I shall give the matter my careful consideration.

CHIRAYINKIL TALUK.

118. *Removal of the silt at the mouth of the Vamanapuram river.*

Mr. K. N. Parameswaran Pillai (Member, Chirayinkil Taluk) said that the grievances of the ryots, owing to the absence of proper arrangements for the prompt removal of the silt which accumulated at the mouth of the Vamanapuram river, had been represented at the previous sessions of the Assembly. The river joined the sea at the Anjengo backwater and the frequent accumulation of silt affected the cultivation of lands in six proverthies of the Chirayinkil taluk and of two proverthies of the Trivandrum taluk. A sum of Rs. 50 used to be annually provided for the

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